(e) Government's position to the NMD proposal in the light of the above views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In the Joint Statement issued during the Sino-Russian Summit in July, both sides have stressed "the fundamental importance of the ABM Treaty as the cornerstone of strategic stability and the basis for cuts in strategic offensive weapons and favour the preservation of the Treaty in its present form." The US ideas on missile defence have not been specifically referred to.

(c) and (d) According to media reports, while the US missile defence proposals came up in bilateral meetings during the Genoa G- 8 Summit, there was no reference to it in the Communique of the Summit.

(e) Does not arise, as the precise details about missile defence plans are yet to be spelt out. On the ABM Treaty, India's opposition to its unilateral abrogation has been made known in official statements.

Release of POW languishing in Pakistani jails

2649. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still more than 100 prisoners of war are in the custody of Pakistan for more than 25 years;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to compel Pakistan to release these prisoners; and

(c) what is the present state of their health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) As per available information, there are 54 Indian POWs believed to be in Pakistan jails since 1971. Pakistan has been consistently denying the presence of any POWs in its jails. Government have consistently taken up the issue of the release and repatriation of Indian POWs with the Government of Pakistan. Most recently, during his Summit Meeting with President Pervez Musharraf on 15th July, 2001 at Agra, Prime Minister urged the Pakistani President to take urgent and purposeful action for the earliest release and repatriation of these POWs to end the agony of the families of these soldiers.

Visit of Chinese Premier

2650. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues to be discussed with the Chinese Premier during his visit to India in November, 2001;